

The Business Farmer's Page

NEW LIFE FOR THE OLD SOIL

Green Manures Work Wonders.
W. H. STEVENSON.

Any crops grown and plowed under green to increase the productive capacity of the soil are called green manure crops. Sometimes such crops occupy the land for only a part of the season. They are then known as "cover" crops or "catch" crops. Green manuring is an important practice, chiefly because it adds organic matter to the soil, which is gradually converted into humus, an absolutely essential constituent of the soil. Of course humus may be secured by applying barnyard manure, but as a rule there is not enough of this material to meet the needs of the land. However, green manuring is not enough in itself to keep a soil from wearing out, as other practices must be followed. Crops must be grown in rotation, the moisture content of the soil regulated, proper tillage practiced, the soil kept sweet, the supply of mineral plant food maintained, especially the supply of phosphorus and potassium, and the nitrogen content of the soil kept up. These factors all play an important part in keeping a soil productive, but they are not more important than green manuring.

Poor Soils Especially Benefited.

In general green manures are beneficial when used on poor soils because of their action on the physical, chemical and bacteriological conditions of the soil. From the physical side green manures influence the moisture, temperature and aeration of soils. For example, on light, sandy soils they prevent rapid drying out by reducing the losses of moisture due to evaporation and percolation, and further make the soil more compact. While they have just the opposite effect on heavy clay soils, here the organic matter opens up the soil and admits air.

The practice of leaving the soil bare during July and August following the harvest of a small grain crop is very bad, as it causes the loss of large amounts of nitrogen by percolation. These losses may be prevented in a large measure by growing green manure crops on the land, especially in this true of leguminous crops, which stimulate greater bacterial action, and as a result larger amounts of available plant food are produced. Rye, wheat, buckwheat and rape are the nonleguminous crops which are commonly used for green manuring, while red clover, mammoth clover, sweet clover, crimson clover, Canada field peas, cowpeas, soy beans and vetches are the best known legumes for this purpose.

The secret of keeping our gardens and fields fertile is to plow deep, and if necessary subsoil, cultivate thoroughly and plant leguminous crops.

SEEDS IN APRIL

Plant Only Real Live Ones and Keep Them Growing.

Good seeds to grow should be pure or free from other kinds of seeds, be true to name and possess the greatest possible vigor. Testing seeds is in itself an interesting, but few have the time for it, and therefore we should use care in buying only from the reliable seed houses. Corn, however, should be tested in order to avoid loss from low vitality and thus having to replant. Testing seeds is a simple matter, and many use the pasteboard fillers of egg crates to do it, these being filled with damp sand, then a kernel of corn is placed in each and covered with sand, afterward being watered thoroughly with lukewarm water; a piece of damp cotton cloth is then laid over the tester until the seeds sprout, which is in about five days. If the seed is good about 85 per cent should germinate.

Sowing the Seeds.

The two requisites for the germination of seeds are a congenial temperature and a continuous supply of moisture. The gardener has little to say about temperature, but the moisture question can be controlled by the use of the roller or the feet, providing one does not use a seed drill having a small roller attached. Peter Henderson in his book, "Gardening for Profit," devotes a whole chapter to the use of the feet in planting. For example, plant two rows of radishes where the soil is dry and press down firmly with the feet over one row, smoothing the other row with a rake, and note the difference. The radishes which have been tramped down are able to get moisture by capillary attraction, while the others suffer for want of it.

In sowing seeds that start slowly, as parsnips, celery, etc., it is well to sow with them a few strong, quick germinating seeds to break the crust and mark the rows so that cultivation may begin early. Frequently a crop of radishes may be grown this way before the main crop takes up the land. The following vegetables may be planted as soon as the soil is fit to work:

Asparagus, one ounce for 50 feet; broad beans, one quart for 100 feet; beets, one ounce for 50 feet; Brussels sprouts, one ounce for 2,000 plants; carrots, one ounce for 100 feet; celery, one ounce for 2,000 plants; Swiss chard, one ounce for 50 feet; lettuce, one ounce for 100 feet; onions, one ounce for 100 feet; sets, one quart for 50 feet; parsley, one ounce for 150 feet; parsnips, one ounce for 200 feet; peas, one quart for 100 feet; potatoes, one peck for 100 hills.

Many of our vegetable seeds do well when transplanted, and these may be started in boxes in the house or under glass or in a nursery row.

STOCKING UP WITH PLANT FOOD

Buy Your Fertilizer Intelligently.
E. K. PARKINSON.

In buying commercial fertilizer do not be guided wholly by a chemical analysis of the crop to be fertilized. Soils differ widely and may be deep or shallow, sandy or loamy, containing liberal supplies of plant food which could be brought into use by deep plowing and thorough cultivation, or perhaps markedly lacking in plant foods. First, then, you must know something of the character of your soil, and you may usually count on sandy and gravelly soils being poor in potash and phosphoric acid; clay soils usually rich in potash and poor in lime and phosphoric acid; limestone soils rich in that element and phosphoric acid and poor in potash, while soils containing leaf mold or other kinds of vegetable matter are usually rich in all elements.

Formulas to Use.

Having determined the general nature of the soil, the formulas given below will meet the requirements of good sandy loam. In purchasing fertilizer remember part of the nitrogen should be in the form of nitrate of soda, which becomes immediately available, and part should be in the form of organic nitrogen, such as tankage, dried blood, or dry ground fish, which is not immediately available, while part of the phosphoric acid should be soluble as acid phosphate and part insoluble, such as ground bone. South Carolina rock or Tennessee rock. (These facts may be had from the salesman.)

Crop	Formula	Pounds
Asparagus	4-8-10	25
Beans	3-8-10	30
Beets	4-8-12	35
Cabbage (early)	5-8-10	40
Cabbage (late)	4-8-10	35
Celery	4-5-8-7-5	50
Corn	4-8-11	30
Lettuce	5-8-10	35
Onions	5-7-10	35
Peas	2-8-10	30
Potatoes	4-8-10	30
Squash and pumpkins	4-6-8	35

These elements provide plant food to start crops and feed them through the season. To use this table remember commercial fertilizers are sold on a percentage basis thus: 4-8-10 means 4 per cent actual nitrogen, 8 per cent actual phosphoric acid and 10 per cent potash. So from a 200 bag of potash containing 51 per cent actual potash, 51 per cent of 200 pounds is 102 pounds. The 4-8-10 calls for 10 per cent actual potash or 10 per cent of 102 pounds, which is 10.2 pounds. In feeding plants harrow into the soil part of the fertilizer to be used and then after the plants are up spread a bit more between the rows and work it into the soil with the cultivator. This is especially true of nitrate of soda.

SIMPLE CARE OF CHICKS

Economy In Raising Them.
DR. SANBORN, Holden, Mass.

There is less fuss in rearing of chicks than a few years ago. A warm brooder, some fine litter, cracked grain and grit, with perhaps a mash containing ground grain and animal food, and you should raise 90 per cent of the chicks.

Every chick deserves to be well hatched, of sturdy ancestry and properly reared. The eggs should be from carefully selected stock, well housed and fed, to produce chicks that stand adverse conditions. The hen or incubator should do its part well, as many a slip is made between the laying of the egg and the hatching of the chick.

I prefer the lamp heated brooder to either the hen or the battery brooder, for while some hens do good brooding and in some seasons you can raise good chicks with the brooder brooder, yet for easy, successful brooding of fifty chicks my preference is for the heated brooder.

The chicks, when dry, are taken from the hen or incubator and transferred to the well warmed brooder. I prefer it should be fully as warm under the cover as was the incubator, then, if too hot, the chicks can be spread out into the less warm part of the brooder floor, or if at any time the temperature drops the chicks can retire to a warmer place under the cover.

What to Feed Them.

At the start the chicks get cool water to drink and only the food that is in the barn waste used to cover the brooder floor. Really they need no food, and what they find in the waste is plenty. When a few days old they need light feeding of cracked wheat, good fish or beef scrap personally I have found nothing better than a good grade of fish scrap added at eight days of age and finely cracked, dry corn at ten to twelve days. It is important that all chick feed be sound, sweet and clean. Avoid musty corn, scrap that is fit only for fertilizer, and stale drinking water. Unless there is some grit in the barn waste that is used for brooder floor it should be supplied. Chicks need a warm place to retire to when cold, an open room to get out into and exercise, as well as a grass run to range over when two weeks old. Close confinement to hot brooders tends to give leg weakness. As the chicks grow in age the heat of the brooder can be reduced to about 80 degrees. Too many chicks are hatched that are doomed to die because from weak stock or incubated wrongly, but the blame is usually laid on the brooder. Yearling hens make the best of brooders, better than pullets, and are in their prime through March and April, which is the time for hatching.

HUSBAND RESCUED DESPAIRING WIFE

After Four Years of Discouraging Conditions, Mrs. Bullock Gave Up in Despair. Husband Came to Rescue.

Catron, Ky.—In an interesting letter from this place, Mrs. Bettie Bullock writes as follows: "I suffered for four years, with womanly troubles, and during this time, I could only sit up for a little while, and could not walk anywhere at all. At times, I would have severe pains in my left side.

The doctor was called in, and his treatment relieved me for a while, but I was soon confined to my bed again. After that, nothing seemed to do me any good.

I had gotten so weak I could not stand, and I gave up in despair.

At last, my husband got me a bottle of Cardui, the woman's tonic, and I commenced taking it. From the very first dose, I could tell it was helping me. I can now walk two miles without tiring me, and am doing all my work."

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on sound principles, should be the court's sovereign guide. I believe that all public officials should put in practice the spirit of section 11, article 2 of the Constitution, by giving full measure in honest and conscientious service to the state in return for the confidence of the people and the compensation paid them.

When I accepted the appointment as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, I did so with the purpose of giving my full time to the duties of the office. The court is far behind, and the presence of each member is required constantly, hence, I shall be able to give but little time to campaigning.

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